I write on behalf of the Scottish Community Alliance, a coalition of Scotland’s largest community-based networks, to express our support for the proposal on voter registration which has been submitted jointly by SCVO and STUC.

The need to restore voter participation could hardly be more urgent with the referendum and other key elections appearing on the horizon. In particular, we believe that there is a need to try to engage with some of the most hard to reach communities where voter numbers have been lowest in recent years.

Participation in our democracy is at an all-time low reflecting an alienation from party politics and political decision making. The referendum and forthcoming elections ought to be an opportunity to revitalise public participation. Everyone ought to have a role in considering Scotland’s future; particular emphasis ought to be placed on engaging with and listening to the voices of people who are most marginalised in our communities. Driving up voter registration and participation must be a strong priority.

In our opinion, the approach suggested in the SCVO/STUC proposal is the one that is most likely to succeed in this respect.

Angus Hardie
27 June 2013